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REMARKS

Claim 1, 9 and 12-14 are pending in the subject application. The version of the claims shown in the above listing reflects entry of the amendments made in the Response to Non-final Office Action filed on June 26, 2006.

Claim 1 has been amended. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the present specification, claims, and drawings as filed, e.g., in Figures 4 and 5 and the description thereof. Accordingly, after entry of this amendment, the pending claims will be claims 1, 9 and 12-14. No new matter has been added.

The amendments to the claims are being made for the purpose of expediting prosecution and are made without prejudice or waiver. Applicants reserve the right to present the original or previously-pending claims in this or a continuing application.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application. The Applicants, however, respectfully request reconsideration of the subject application based on the above amendments and the following remarks. Any rejections or objections of record and not discussed herein have been addressed in the Response to Non-final Office Action filed on June 26, 2006 (which is incorporated herein by reference).

Interview Summary

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of telephonic interviews with their undersigned representative on September 8, 10, and 11, 2006 (the "Interviews"). During the Interviews, the rejections of the claims and the cited references were discussed. Although no final agreement was reached, the Examiner agreed to consider further amendments to the claims, as presented herein.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claim 9 (as amended in the Response filed June 26, 2006) is free of the art presently of record.

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Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 9 stood rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,486,971 to Kawamoto ("Kawamoto" or the "Kawamoto Reference"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the above amendments and for reasons detailed below.

As an initial matter, Applicants understand from the Interviews that this rejection has been overcome, as to claim 9 (and therefore to any claims dependent therefrom), by the Response filed on June 26, 2006.

As Applicants understand the reference, Kawamoto discloses an apparatus in which the first and second first enlarging/reducing process devices (53a and 53b of Figs. 6 and 7) each include a FIFO memory 63. The first enlarging/reducing process device 53a and the second enlarging/reducing process device 53b are disclosed in Figs. 3 and 4 of Kawamoto. Because each of the enlarging/reducing process devices (53a and 53b) is provided with a FIFO memory 63, two FIFO memories are required in the apparatus of Kawamoto. Thus, Kawamoto cannot teach or suggest the apparatus of the present invention having a single FIFO memory, e.g., as illustrated in Fig. 5 of the present specification.

Furthermore, while Kawamoto shows (e.g., in Fig. 5 thereof) that a single enlarging/reducing process device is provided, and a single FIFO memory is provided, Kawamoto fails to disclose that the enlarging variable magnification unit and the reducing variable magnification unit are constituted by separate units, e.g., as shown in Fig. 5 of the present specification.

Still further, in Figs. 3 to 5 of Kawamoto, the enlarging/reducing process device is connected to the memory device 35 via the memory I/F 54. However, Kawamoto does not disclose the constitution of the memory device 35, and Kawamoto does not teach or suggest that the memory device of Figs. 3-5 is constituted by a FIFO memory. Thus, it is Applicants' understanding that Kawamoto does not teach or

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suggest that an enlarging variable magnification unit and a reducing variable magnification unit can be separate units which read image data from and/or write image data to the same single first-in, first-out memory.

In view of the foregoing discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that Kawamoto cannot anticipate (nor render obvious) the present invention as claimed in claim 1 (as amended), in which, *inter alia*, an image processing apparatus includes a single first-in, first-out memory for carrying out write/read processing of image data; and the enlarging variable magnification unit and the reducing variable magnification unit are separate units which read image data from and/or write image data to the same single first-in, first-out memory.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants contend that reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(c) is proper and the same is requested.

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Page 7**CONCLUSION**

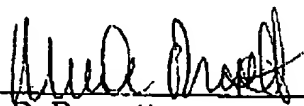
It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in a condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

Applicants conditionally petition for a further extension of time to provide for the possibility that such a petition has been inadvertently overlooked and is required. As provided below, charge Deposit Account **04-1105** for any required fee.

The Applicants believe that no additional fee is required for consideration of the within Response. However, if for any reason the fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

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